

WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 2005

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:21, Mr. Ferdinandi called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi, *Chairman*; John Gregory;
Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Deborah Lopes; Domenic Mitchrone; Dr. James Segovis, *Vice Chairman*; Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: Richard Beaupre, Timothy Csanadi, Michael Marra

Others Present: Victoria Gailliard, *Director*; Brian Butler; Cheryl Carroll; Susan Paquin; Vicki Phelps; Stephanie Sullivan

The Chair informed the audience the Executive Session portion of the agenda will follow the Regular Session.

C. **Approval of Minutes** – December 1, 2004 Regular Session

Mr. Ferdinandi asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the December 1, 2004 Regular Session minutes. Mr. Gregory made the motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

D. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

There were no comments.

E. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

Recessing into Executive Session was postponed until the end of the Regular Session.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

Did not recess out of Regular Session at this point on the agenda.

II. Business Agenda

A. **Finance** – Ms. Carroll, *Business Office Coordinator*

In December the Board received a report on the recent visit the Governor paid to the school. He toured some of the technical programs and spoke to some of the staff and students. Apparently he is impressed with what we are doing at Davies. Since that visit, the Finance Office at the Dept. of Ed. had contacted Ms. Carroll and requested information on the enrollment capacity here at the school. Ms. Gailliard and she provided them information

regarding where we currently were with enrollment, how many of the Providence students we had gotten from the additional funding, and what we felt the capacity was. Notes were taken and a meeting was had by the Dept. with the Governor because he was interested in knowing what Davies capacity was.

From this meeting, it came back that the Governor, she guesses, was apparently left with some confusion as to having understood or heard that number that was always out there that Davies capacity is for 1000 students. Ms. Gailliard and she gave numbers in the 800's for this meeting. As a result, the Governor's office asked for further clarification.

Back in 1989 when the expansion plans to build an addition onto the school were drawn up, there was a plan that involved 1000 matriculating here at Davies; however, within that number was a mix of students. There were adult ed. types of classes: basic living skills, after-school drop out program, etc. Those are definitely not seats that when you talk about a capacity of a full-time, daytime student, you can't compare. They provided clarification to the Dept. settling on a level of comfort facility-wise, square footage-wise, shop numbers safety size-wise, that we are a 850-875 student school. Ms. Gailliard interjected that the 1000 number was also based on a "week-about" schedule back in 1989. That was the key factor in looking at expanding to 1000 because with the "week-about" schedule you have half of the school in academic classes and the other half in the technical classes so obviously you can take in more students. This was also explained to the Governor's Office.

Ms. Carroll tried to get an update for this meeting to see where all of this information has gone, what does it mean to us, does it truly look like for next year the Governor will bring us to capacity with funding. She was not able to get that update because of holiday schedules and vacations. We are pleased with the Governor's interest and we are looking at it in a very positive light.

the Mr. Mitchrone was kept abreast of these communications with the Dept. and the Governor's Office. During his visit to the school, the Board members who were present asked him that he should establish a champion for career and technical education. The Governor asked them who they thought were champions in the legislature. Mr. Mitchrone answered that it appears to be Rep. Crowley. With the Dept. asking the questions about capacity, it implies that there is a possibility that he does not want them to put the money in and get all of the credit; that he may end up putting the money in to at least bringing us up to the 850 students even if they don't come from Providence.

B. **Human Resources** – Mr. Ferdinandi

The Human Resources Committee did not meet; however, there will be a report in Executive Session.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **Director's Report**

1) **Teachers' Association**

There was no Teachers' Association representative present.

2) Teacher Assistants' Association –

There was no Teacher Assistants' Association representative present.

3) Governor's Visit – December 3, 2004 – Ms. Gailliard

It went extremely well. The purpose of the visit was to look at career and technical education, get a better understanding of it, and talk with some of the students. A number of Board members were here as well and met with him at the end of the visit. The questions from RIDE about our capacity level came out of that meeting. Overall, she feels the visit was very successful and she believes the Board went in the right direction in what they had to say to him and we are probably looking at funding for those additional students. It was a wonderful opportunity for the school.

Mr. Ferdinandi said the Governor handled himself so well during the visit. This type of a venue you can tell he has visited many times before. The way he handled himself with the students, he went up to almost every student he saw and asked them what they were doing. He had a sincere interest in the educational process. Several students actually asked him for his autograph.

4) Technical Program – PowerPoint Presentation – Mr. Butler

Ms. Gailliard introduced this next agenda item. There are always discussions on Davies academic programs about what is going on and performance levels. At this meeting she wanted to share with the Board what is going on in Davies technical programs through a PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Butler, Supervisor of Technical Instruction.

He went through each of the 11 programs: Academy of Information, Auto Careers, Business Technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Electrical, Electronics, Graphic Arts, Health Careers, Hospitality Careers, and Machine Technology. He gave the status on program certifications and industry-based curricula, teacher certifications, student certifications, partnerships, and articulation agreements.

Relative to the Electrical Program as it pertains to student certification, there are some barriers we have to embrace through the IEBW because they want to control the number of hours that are given for licensure. At the present time, when a student graduates and has an "x" number of hours, how do they get their apprenticeship license? They have to become indentured apprentices working with a state licensed master electrician. In Massachusetts, they give someone hour for hour towards the 3000 needed for licensure in the practical application and 800 hours of theory. In Rhode Island, the max they will give us is just 10 hours for the theory and nothing for the practical. We think this is unfair, and Mr. Butler has been entertaining discussions with Buddy Eckneau down at the State Apprenticeship Office also with the powers-to-be at IEBW 99 to see if we can get around a worktable to hatch out some agreement. He understands IEBW is watching out for their apprentices but there has to be some sort of give and take with these discussions. It's a long way off from what we want, but it is getting better. What is happening is after they get through Davies' program, the graduate will go down to the IEBW to sign up for indentured apprentices, and they will be taken on as they are pulled from the pool.

They do not have automatic matriculation, but they do have an advantage of the others in the pool who are starting with nothing. In fact, it is a major advantage.

In conclusion, the only way you can become a master electrician is you have to go through the union. So if you are a non-union shop, the chances of you hiring an electrician are pretty remote until they go through the union's program. Mr. Mitchrone encouraged Mr. Butler to continue his relationship with the IEBW because we could become a source for people getting into the program.

Mr. Mitchrone understands the Dept. of Educ. is standardizing curriculum for Science, Math, and ELA. Are they going to do the same thing for the programs we have? All the directors of the C&T centers meet once a month and they look at business and industry standards across the board in all the technical areas. We hired a professional curriculum developer to help us with the core development of these curricula in all the technical areas. This is part of the improvement process for programs such as Perkins funding. All of the technical programs are using statewide core curriculums. The state has done it with the technical programs and now they are working on the academic programs.

The goals and objectives of two committees out of our Strategic Plan, Programs and Standards of Excellence, have been instrumental in getting a handle on the technical education programs that we offer. It hasn't only given us a better idea of what we are doing, if we are aligned with what business and industry is doing, and if we are aligned for what we are doing in the state, but it is also an accountability mechanism for us. The next piece of this is the number of actual placements. We are now looking at the numbers of student certifications because right now they are not what Ms. Gailliard wants them to be. Some programs are okay, but others are very lacking, but it's not just here at Davies; it is across the state. This is what Perkins is looking for and right now they have given the state a poor performance rating. To motivate the staff to comply, Ms. Gailliard has tied this into the budgeting. She looks at curriculum when they order stuff. If she doesn't see a match on how it will impact instruction and what it is going to look like in the outcome, she doesn't approve it. It's an accountability system all around and it has been an ongoing process for the last two years. Mr. Butler and Dr. Bourassa have been working on it and the teachers have been very instrumental in this. They took the initiative and sort out all of these program certifications on their own. This accountability system was published on a spreadsheet where all of the technical instructors can see what other programs are doing across the board, which has generated a high level of competitiveness.

5) Summary of State Assessment Data – Ms. Gailliard

A Yr-2004 assessment data comparison chart between Davies and the state of RI as a whole was distributed and it identifies the two content areas that are tested, ELA (Reading and Writing) and Mathematics. At this point, the state hasn't even achieved honors in any of the subsets. When you look at mathematics in problem solving the state only has 36% meeting the

standards, but Davies moved 32% out of the little evidence of meeting the standards category and we did it consistency across the board. We are well on our way in making some changes in the academic and technical areas. The state is looking at 100% proficiency by the year 2014 as is stated in the NCLB Act.

6) School Improvement Celebration/Recognition – Jan. 19, 2005 –

Ms. Gailliard

Ms. Gailliard has been waiting and waiting for the Commissioner, but she knows he has his hands full with Hope High School, so she is just going to move ahead with this recognition. On January 19th, she will celebrate with the staff as well as the students. There will be a "Make Your Own Sundae" party with the students during the lunch periods, and with the staff, she will do something after school recognizing them. Hopefully some of the Board members can be there to say some words to them in recognizing them for the progress they are making in the academic and technical programs.

7) Other —Ms. Gailliard

—The January newsletter was sent to the parents/guardians. It addresses the Governor's visit, the SALT surveys, and parent involvement that is part of the RI Comprehensive Plan.

—We have a student who is enrolled in the Jump Start Program at CCRI where he is fulfilling his senior year requirements as well as his first year as a college student. He applied to Brown University, was accepted, and will begin in September as a sophomore. The Board has met him, Timothy Cabbabe, who is the SkillUSA National Silver Medal Winner for Mathematics.

Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

At 6:28 pm, Mr. Gregory made a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Mitchrone seconded the motion and all were in favor.

At 6:59 pm, Mr. Gregory made a motion to recess out of Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Back in Regular Session, Mr. Halkyard made a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential, Mr. Gregory seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mr. Ferdinandi thanked everyone for his/her patience and support that helped him get through his first meeting as chairperson.

IV. Adjournment: At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting February 2, 2005

Note: The Board of Trustees accepted these minutes at the February 2, 2005 Board meeting.